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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/898,439	07/05/2001	Tue Nguyen	SIM077	1885

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EXAMINER
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HOANG, QUOC DINH

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2818

DATE MAILED: 04/24/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/898,439

Applicant(s)

NGUYEN ET AL.

Examiner

Quoc D. Hoang

Art Unit

2818

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 January 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 30, 35, 36 and 38 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 30, 35, 36 and 38 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 35 and 36 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 1/30/2006 has been entered.

### ***Response to Amendment***

2. Amendment filed on 12/29/2005 has been entered. In Amendment, claims 1-29, 31-34, and 37 have been cancelled. Claims 30, 35, 36 and 38 are pending in the application.

### ***Claim Objections***

3. Claim 35 is objected to because of the following informalities: claim 35, line 15, the limitation "the cylindrical helical ribbon electrode is adapted to be placed within five inches of a sample situated in the process chamber" is not clear. Does this sample have a thickness of 5 inches?. Applicant's specification (summary) discloses the distance between the cylindrical helical ribbon electrode and the wafer is less than five inches.

Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 30 and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Amagasa (U.S. Pat No. 4,750,077).

**Regarding claim 30,** Amagasa teaches an improved apparatus for semiconductor processing, the improvement comprising a helical ribbon electrode 50, wherein the helical ribbon electrode 50 comprises a compressed cylindrical helix having a plurality of flat concentric spiral coils 52 separated from each other by a sheet of dielectric material 54, each said flat concentric spiral coil 52 comprising a ribbon-like form, said ribbon-like form comprising a width and a thickness wherein the width is substantially greater than the thickness, the width lying in a plane that faces another of said plurality of flat concentric spiral coils, and the thickness corresponding to a plane that is substantially parallel to a direction of stacking of said plurality of flat concentric spiral coils (col. 3, line 10 through col. 4, line 42 and Fig. 4).

**Regarding claim 38,** Amagasa teaches an improved electrode 50 for coupling to the output of a generator (power source equipment), the improvement comprising a helical ribbon electrode further comprising:

a plurality of substantially flat, concentric, spirally-connected coils 52, said coils having a width and a thickness, the width being in a dimension facing an adjacent coil, and the thickness being perpendicular to the width, where the width is substantially greater than the thickness; and

a sheet of dielectric material 54 between adjacent coils (col. 3, line 10 through col. 4, line 42 and Fig. 4).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claim 35 and 36, as best understood, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ye et al (U.S. Pat No. 6,488,862 herein after "Ye") in view of Amagasa (U.S. Pat No. 4,750,077).

**Regarding claim 35**, Ye teaches an apparatus for semiconductor processing, the apparatus comprising:

a process chamber 10 (col. 8, lines 5-45 and col. 11, lines 28-47 and Fig. 1);

a solid state RF plasma generator 18 coupled to the process chamber 10 to excite a processing gas (through gas inlet 26) and generate a plasma (col. 8, lines 5-45 and col. 11, lines 28-47 and Fig. 1);

a controller coupled to the solid state RF plasma generator to pulse the solid state radio frequency plasma generator for each deposited layer (col. 11, lines 28-47 and Fig. 1). *Note that the pulse time is considered to be the controller*, and

a cylindrical helical ribbon electrode 12 coupled to an output of the solid state radio frequency plasma generator 18, the cylindrical helical ribbon electrode further comprising; a plurality of spirally-connected ribbon-shaped coils 12, and wherein a

cylindrical helical ribbon electrode is placed at a distance of about 4 inches from the substrate 14 (col. 8, lines 5-45, col. 9, lines 1-5 and col. 11, lines 28-47 and Fig. 1).

Ye teaches the spirally-connected ribbon-shaped coils, but does not teach each said coil having a width and a thickness; the width substantially greater than the thickness and flat in a dimension facing another of said plurality of spirally-connected ribbon-shaped coils, and wherein a sheet of dielectric material separates adjacent spirally-connected ribbon-shaped coils.

However, Amagasa teaches a spirally-connected ribbon-shaped coils 50, each said coil 52 having a width and a thickness; the width substantially greater than the thickness and flat in a dimension facing another of said plurality of spirally-connected ribbon-shaped coils; and the thickness is substantially perpendicular to the width, and wherein a sheet of dielectric material 54 separates adjacent spirally-connected ribbon-shaped coils 50 so that, when compressed, the adjacent surfaces of the spirally-connected ribbon-shaped coils do not touch (col. 3, line 10 through col. 4, line 42 and Fig. 4). Since Ye and Amagasa are all from the same field of endeavor, the purpose disclosed by Amagasa would have been recognized in the pertinent art of Ye. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to provide the dielectric material separates adjacent coils in order to reduce the size while increase the capacitance of the coils as taught by Amagasa, column 5, lines 58-61.

**Regarding claim 36,** Ye does not teach a sheet of dielectric material is greater than the width of the spirally-connected ribbon-shaped coils.

Amagasa teaches wherein the width of the sheet of dielectric material 64 is greater than the width of the spirally-connected ribbon-shaped coils 60 (col. 4, lines 30-42 and Figs 5-6). Since Ye and Amagasa are all from the same field of endeavor, the purpose disclosed by Amagasa would have been recognized in the pertinent art of Ye. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to provide dielectric material is greater than the width of the coils in order to wound around the coils with dielectric material as taught by Amagasa, column 4, lines 30-40.

### ***Conclusion***

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Quoc Hoang whose telephone number is (571) 272-1780. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8.00 AM to 5.00 PM.

If attempt to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Nelms can be reached on (571) 272-1787. The fax phone numbers of the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (571) 273-8300 for regular communications and (571) 273-8300 for After Final communications.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should

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you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Quoc Hoang  
Patent examiner/AU 2818

*Quoc Hoang*  
04/16/2006